

From: Keith Frost
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Proposed Settlement

As someone knowledgeable about computing and the computing industry, I cannot see how the proposed settlement of the Microsoft antitrust case offers any remedy for the antitrust violations of which Microsoft has been found guilty. The proposed settlement not only contains no meaningful penalties; it actually advances Microsoft's operating system monopoly, and allows Microsoft to continue to extend it to the Internet.

Any just penalty would require at least the following three measures:

1. Microsoft operating systems must be sold only as added-cost extras with new computing systems, so that users who do not wish to buy Microsoft software are not forced to do so. This requires not only that computer sellers offer their computers without the Microsoft operating system, but that they also offer to sell the Microsoft operating system without a computer, for a price equal to the difference in price between the computer system without the Microsoft operating system, and the computer system with it. Only in this way, can Microsoft truly be prevented from maintaining their monopoly position by unfair business tactics.
2. The specifications of all present and future Microsoft document file formats must be made public, so that documents created in Microsoft products can be read by software from other makers, on Microsoft or other operating systems. In addition, the Windows application programming interface (API) must be published in full, to allow all other makers to write software for it.
3. Any Microsoft networking protocols must be published in full and reviewed by an independent network protocol body. This is to prevent Microsoft from extending its operating system monopoly to seizing effective control over the Internet.

Our rights as citizens, to a fair and competitive marketplace, are at stake. Microsoft has shown itself to be an aggressive, unprincipled monopolist, and needs to be reined in, if we truly want a vital, innovative computer software industry in this country.

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